

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 5, 2002, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 35 were previously pending in the above-referenced application and are subject to an election of species requirement. New claims 36 through 40 have been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that Information Disclosure Statements were filed in the above-referenced application on December 14, 2000, and April 26, 2001, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received initialed copies of the PTO-1449s that accompanied these Information Disclosure Statements. It is respectfully requested that the information cited on the PTO-1449s be made of record in the above-referenced application and that initialed copies of the PTO-1449s evidencing the same be returned to the undersigned attorney.

Election of Species Requirement

The Office has identified the following species of invention:

Species I – drawn to a method of exposing a conductive structure comprising “reducing a thickness” of a material layer in which the conductive structure is embedded; and

Species II – drawn to a method of forming a “solder mask” to control the heights of conductive structures formed on a device through apertures in the “mask”.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 33 through 35, as well as new claims 36 through 40, read on Species I and that claims 1 through 32, 33 through 35, and new claims 36 through 40 read on Species II.

Independent claim 33 and new independent claim 36 are both considered to be generic to both Species I and Species II.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species II.

New Claims

New claims 36 through 40 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that none of claims 36 through 40 introduces new matter into the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

A prompt Action on the merits of claims 33 through 40 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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